

Anchorage Daily Times

NIXON STEPS DOWN TODAY



NIXON TAKES SHORTCUT

President Nixon cuts between cars yesterday as he walks from the Executive Office Building to the White House. The buildings are next to each other. (AP Wirephoto)

Nation Awaits Speech Tonight

WASHINGTON (AP) — Richard M. Nixon has abandoned his fight to remain President and will yield the office to Vice President Gerald R. Ford, administration and congressional officials said.

Nixon was to announce his decision in an address to the nation at 9 p.m. EDT (4 p.m. ADT).

Sources said the President's resignation would be effective on Friday and that Ford would be sworn in as the nation's 38th President at noon at the White House.

Congressional sources said Ford would make a 15-minute talk to the nation Friday night and would address a joint session of Congress on Monday or Tuesday.

Nixon and Ford talked for an hour and 18 minutes in the Oval Office late this morning. Later, a Ford aide said the vice president told his staff there would be a "smooth and orderly transition."

Nixon summoned congressional leaders to the White House for a meeting prior to his nationally broadcast address.

Nixon was to disclose his decision to an expectant nation six years to the day after he received the Republican nomination for President at the GOP National Convention in Miami Beach, Fla., on Aug. 8, 1968.

In the 198-year history of the Republic, eight presidents died in office, but none resigned.

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His presidency mortally wounded by the repeated blows of the Watergate disclosures, Nixon made his decision the same week he delivered the most devastating blow, the announcement Monday that he had withheld damaging evidence from the prosecutors, Congress and his own lawyers.

Within hours, his support in the House of Representatives where an impeachment debate was scheduled to begin Aug. 19, evaporated. His staunchest supporters, one by one, announced sadly, reluctantly, that they would vote to impeach him.

A White House source said

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger was instrumental in persuading Nixon that the nation would be best served by his resignation. Kissinger and Nixon talked until nearly midnight in the White House family quarters.

The source said Kissinger argued that the nation's foreign policy required that the uncertainty and the crisis of confidence plaguing the country come to an immediate end.

As secretary of State, Kissinger is the government official who would receive a formal letter of resignation.

Another source said White House staff chief Alexander M. Haig Jr. also had urged Nixon to step down.

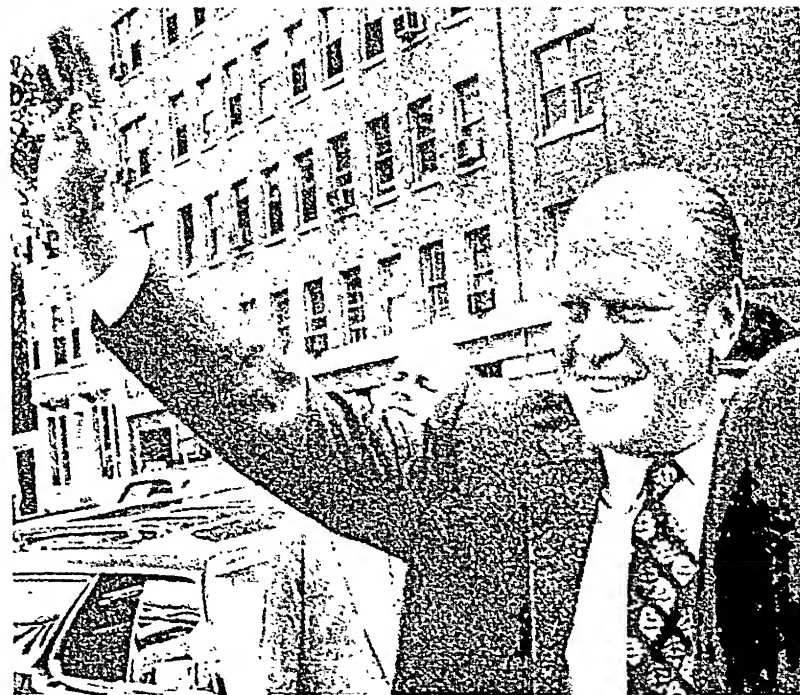
Ford was sworn in as vice president last Dec. 6, succeeding Spiro T. Agnew, who had resigned Oct. 10, after pleading no contest to income tax evasion. Ford was the first vice president chosen under the 25th Amendment which provides for a president to fill a vacancy in the nation's second highest office. Ford would be eligible to seek election to the presidency only once.

Nixon's 2,026 days as President were marked, as was his long political career, by extraordinary highs and deep lows.

During his first term, Nixon traveled to China to bring about historic changes in relations between the United States and the Asian Communist power.

And he pursued a policy of detente with the Soviet Union, expanding trade and developing closer coordination with the Russians.

With Kissinger playing a prominent role the Nixon administration presided over the end to American involvement in Vietnam. Nixon and his secretary of State also received credit for ending the latest Middle East fighting.



FORD WAVES TO TOURISTS

Vice President Gerald Ford waves to tourists yesterday as he leaves the Dirksen Senate Office Building for the Executive Office Building in Washington. Earlier, Ford con-

ferred with Alexander Haig Jr., President Nixon's chief of staff, amid increasing congressional pressure on Nixon to resign.

Alaska's Politicians Give Varied Views

Word of the impending resignation of President Richard M. Nixon elicited no shock and some "no comment," some sorrow and some relief from Alaska's leading political figures today.

"I know that all Americans are grieved that this is the way it has to happen," Democratic Gov. William A. Egan said. "With this resignation, traumatic as it may be, I think we can all be proud that the system of government of the United States will weather it."

Egan has said that he favored the President's resignation if he is impeached.

"The President has obviously decided that resignation is best for the nation," said Republican former governor and Interior Secretary

Walter Hickel. "It is a low point in America, but we can be proud of the strength of our Constitution. It has held us together. Although today is despair, tomorrow is hope."

Hickel gave one of the seconding speeches to Nixon's nomination at the 1972 Republican convention.

"It is reliably reported that the President will resign," Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, said. Stevens had limited comments because the resignation has not been officially announced.

Stevens said he has been invited to a meeting at 6 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time (1 p.m., ADT), where Senate leaders will report the results of meetings yesterday and today with Nixon.

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Fink Charges Dishonesty On Capital Report Issue

By SUSAN ANDREWS

Times Staff Writer

"The state capital relocation study was proposed by the governor and pushed through the legislature by persons opposed to moving the capital from Juneau. Now that the study shows it would cost only a small amount to move the capital, the governor is trying to bury the report," State House Speaker Tom Fink, R-Anchorage said today.

"We've spent the money and the report should be available

before the Aug. 27 election," Fink declared. The capital move question is to be decided at the statewide primary.

Fink termed it "the absolute in dishonesty" for the anti-capital move forces to attempt to bury the relocation study because it "destroys the concept of our inability to pay for the capital move." The report says it would cost a maximum of \$110 million, Fink said.

"Attorney Gen. Norman Gorsuch, Sen. Terry Miller and I had agreed to four-city presentation by the consultants," Fink said. "The report was to have been presented first to the governor, and then at a press conference in Anchorage last Friday, to give it the widest possible exposure."

"Then on Monday through Thursday of this week, the consultants were going to go to Anchorage, Juneau, Fairbanks and Ketchikan with a slide presentation they had prepared. It was to be an opportunity for those for and against moving the capital to cross-examine the consultants extensively. They have

excellent figures and information to back up their report."

But after reviewing the report last Friday, the governor "scotched" the four-city visitation, Fink said.

"The consultants met with us on July 24 and agreed that they would bring with them the 300 full copies of their report and 5,000 copies of the summary," Fink said.

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JOHN R. GARNER
Accident Victim

McKee Charges Are Dismissed

The last of the indictments filed last year against Kenai city officials were dismissed this morning when Special Prosecutor Jeff Curral moved for dismissal of the indictment against H. R. McKee.

The motion was granted by Superior Court Judge Edmund Burke.

At the same time Curral asked that the new grand jury be convened in Anchorage on

Aug. 19.

McKee, former city finance director for the City of Kenai, was originally indicted on three counts of accessory to embezzlement. The indictment was originally returned by a grand jury in Kenai in the spring of 1973 along with the indictment of Kenai city manager Edwin Glatfelter who was charged with embezzlement and tax evasion.

He was reindicted again along with Glatfelter and other Kenai residents by a grand jury in Anchorage last fall.

Most of the indictments were dismissed and controversy arose surrounding the entire matter and a new investigation was established this summer with Curral, district attorney from Ketchikan appointed as special prosecutor.

In May the Anchorage indictments against Glatfelter were dismissed and last week the original Kenai indictments against Glatfelter were also dismissed leaving only the indictments against McKee still standing.

McKee, through his attorney has filed for dismissal last May. Yesterday Curral also moved for dismissal acknowledging that he had not been brought to trial within the 120 days required in Alaska rules of criminal procedure.

The motion was granted today by Judge Burke.

The effect was to clear the way for the proposed third grand jury investigation. Curral asked that the grand jury be convened in Anchorage. He explained that while Kenai would be the normal site for the grand jury, this matter had already been heard in Kenai and had been the subject of a grand jury in Kenai.

Iron Workers Push Contract

Iron Workers' business agent Kancho Spasoff began talks with a formerly defunct steel contractors group yesterday in an attempt to increase pressure on the Alaska Chapter of the Associated General Contractors to sign an agreement with his roughly 380 member union.

Spasoff and two other negotiators for Local 751 of the International Association of Structural & Ornamental Iron Workers began shuttle diplomacy between the two contractor associations yesterday.

"It just doesn't look like the Iron Workers want to settle this thing," the head of one large contracting firm suggested this morning. "I would say it's about a 50-50 chance that they'll sign with the Alaska Steel Contractors and Erectors Association," a group that had been inactive for several years but may be willing to settle on the Iron Workers terms in order to get contracts that would not otherwise be available to them.

Asked this morning if the union was talking with a group other than the AGC, Iron Workers negotiator John Abshire said he had "no comment."

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Rites For Muldoon Teacher Are Scheduled For Tonight

Funeral services for a Muldoon Elementary School teacher who died of injuries suffered in a bike-truck accident will be held at 8 tonight at the Forest Lawn Memorial Chapel. John Reynolds Garner, 36, died Tuesday morning in Providence Hospital 13 days after he suffered head and chest injuries when his bicycle collided with a tractor trailer on Tudor Road near Checkmate Drive.

Police said Garner was riding in traffic when his bicycle crossed the center line for no apparent reason.

Born Oct. 22, 1937 in Oklahoma City, Okla.,

he came to Alaska in 1964 and taught at the Nome Elementary School until 1968.

On coming to Anchorage he participated in the community chorus and Anchorage theater productions.

A graduate of Central State University in Oklahoma, he received a master degree from Alaska Methodist University.

Survivors include his widow, Barbara; three sons, John Reynolds II, Jason and Seth, all of the family home at 2814 E. 42nd Ave., and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lydwel Garner.

Willie Bailey, a construction worker standing in front of the union hall this morning, said: "They should have fired Nixon like they would me."

"He's no good. I never voted

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Weather

Anchorage and vicinity: Cloudy tonight with brief periods of light rain or drizzle. Decreasing cloudiness tomorrow. Light winds. Tonight low 40s. High Friday 60 to 65. Saturday outlook mostly sunny. High yesterday 49. The high for Aug. 8 was 77 in 1957 and the low was 43 in 1928.

People Tell Of Mixed Feelings

By MAUREEN BLEWETT

Times Staff Writer

The Italian industrialist eating his toast at the counter of the Anchorage-Westward Hotel this morning put his fork down and said:

"I can tell you this. If the President and deputies of Italy were tried for the same crimes as Nixon, there would be no one left in the government."

And Silvio Mascladri of Milan, here for a hunting trip, added:

"I don't know if he should be impeached."

"You have never had a president who has raised the image of the U.S. so high in the eyes of the world."

But Anchorage's man - in - the - street generally takes a less charitable view of the activities of the man who has led the country for six years.

Mrs. Sally Griffith, an Anchorage resident for almost 30 years and a former proofreader for the Anchorage

Times, voted for Nixon. But this morning she said she thought Nixon should resign. Congress is so engrossed in Watergate that "it is not doing a good job of representing us," she said.

Willie Bailey, a construction worker standing in front of the union hall this morning, said: "They should have fired Nixon like they would me."

"He's no good. I never voted

(See Page 3, Col. 1)

SILVIO MASCLADRI
Has ReservationsSALLY GRIFFITH
'Should Resign'

Line Worker Lands In Jail

A 61-year-old construction worker is in jail today charged with two counts of assault with intent to kill after a knife fight at the pipeline terminal construction site in Valdez.

State Troopers and Valdez City Police arrested Leon Campbell after he allegedly knifed two other workers, Don Stowers and Jack Slagle, during a fight.

Troopers said the fight began when Campbell was fired from a job at the site across the bay from the city of Valdez.

Campbell and Stowers were brought into Anchorage where Stowers was treated for injuries.

Campbell pleaded innocent during arraignment yesterday. Bail is set at \$20,000.